

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 11 are amended and claims 2, 4, 8, 12 and 13 are cancelled. Claim 1 includes subject matter formerly recited in claims 2-4 and 8. Claim 11 includes subject matter formerly recited in claims 12 and 13. Support for some of the subject matter included in claim 11 may be found in Applicant's specification at, for example, page 17, lines 19 to 21. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-11 and 14-18 remain pending in this application.

As noted above, claim 1 incorporates subject matter of claims 2-4 and 8. Thus the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,802,731 to *Maschek et al.* ("*Mascheck*") is moot. To the extent the previous rejection of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly not being patentable over *Mascheck* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,140,810 to *Bohnert et al.* ("*Bohnert*") and the rejections of claims 8 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly not being patentable over *Mascheck* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,912,910 to *Sanders et al.* ("*Sanders*") apply to claim 1, Applicant traverses the rejections because, taken individually or in combination, these references do not disclose or suggest all the features recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 broadly encompasses the exemplary high-voltage component illustrated in FIG. 3. As shown in FIG. 3, the high-voltage component has a first end 1, a second end 2 and an insulation body 9 arranged between the two ends 1, 2. Insulation body can include a high-voltage insulator having shielding 11 and a voltage sensor 13. Shielding 11 is arranged on the outside of the insulation body 9 so as to enclose it. The voltage sensor 13 is arranged centrally in relation to the longitudinal axis of the high-voltage insulator. A capillary 5, together with a protective medium 6, a fiber 4, and a capillary coating 8 can be arranged in a spiral shape around voltage sensor 13. An insulation filler 12 is arranged between the insulation body 9 and voltage sensor 13. (See Specification, pp. 19-20.)

The Examiner concedes that *Maschek* fails to disclose or suggest "at least one capillary, which extends from the first end to the second end and which is arranged within the insulating part, wherein ... the outside of the capillary is enclosed by a capillary coating

in order to protect said capillary against mechanical stress, the capillary is designed and arranged in the insulating part such that thermo-mechanical stress, which the insulating part exerts on the capillary during the curing process of the insulation part, leaves it undamaged," as recited in Applicant's claim 1. (Office Action, pp. 5-6.) The Examiner, however, asserts that *Bohnert* discloses these features. Applicant disagrees.

Bohnert discloses a sensor arrangement 2, 5 wound by a continuous sensor fiber 4a. Sensor arrangement 2, 5 is mounted inside a high-voltage insulating tube 16 and sealed in the tube with polyurethane 18. (*Bohnert*, col. 5:16-24.) The Examiner apparently asserts that insulating tube 16, polyurethane sealing compound 18, and continuous sensor fiber 4a correspond to Applicant's claimed "insulating part," "capillary coating," and "capillary." (Office Action, p. 5-6.)

To the contrary, *Bohnert* does not disclose or suggest a "capillary" or a "capillary [being] enclosed by a capillary coating," as recited in claim 1. Sensor arrangement 2, 5 is wound with continuous sensor fiber 4a. (*Bohnert*, col. 4:21-25.) At best, continuous sensor fiber 4a might be considered to correspond to Applicant's claimed "optical fiber." But continuous sensor fiber 4a is directly sealed in polyurethane 18. (*Bohnert*, col. 5:33-40; FIG. 3a.) *Bohnert* says nothing with regard to sensor fiber 4a being enclosed within a capillary or the like.

Thus, *Bohnert* does not disclose a "capillary" and polyurethane 18 cannot be considered to correspond to Applicant's claimed "capillary coating." Accordingly, *Bohnert* does not or suggest a "capillary [being] enclosed by a capillary coating" (emphasis added) as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

The Examiner relies on *Sanders* for allegedly disclosing a polarization-maintaining fiber. (Office Action, p. 7.) *Sanders*, however, does not disclose or suggest a "capillary" or a "capillary coating," as recited in Applicant's claim 1, and the Examiner does not assert that *Sanders* makes such a disclosure or suggestion.

Because *Maschek*, *Bohnert* and *Sanders* fail to disclose or suggest a "capillary [being] enclosed by a capillary coating" (emphasis added) as recited in Applicant's claim 1,

these references, whether taken individually or in combination cannot support a rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) claim 1 is therefore allowable over the Applied references. Claims 5-7, 9, 10 and 18 are also allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 1.

Independent claim 11 incorporates subject matter formerly recited in claims 12 and 13. Thus, the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is moot. To the extent that the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly not being patentable over *Maschek* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,203,647 to *Schuler et al.* ("*Schuler*"), Applicant traverses the rejection.

The Examiner concedes that *Maschek* does not teach or suggest "a capillary coating [being] applied to the outside of [a] capillary before the capillary is arranged with the insulating part." (Office Action, p. 7.) The Examiner relies on *Schuler* for allegedly disclosing such features. (Office Action, p. 8.)

Schuler discloses a method for producing a wound insulating conduit for a high-voltage insulator. (*Schuler*, abstract.) A molded body 5 having an empty conduit 51 is positioned on a surface 4 of a cylindrical laminate structure and fixed to the cylinder with layers of material 2 which are wound. (*Id.* at 2:40-47; FIGS. 1A-1C.) The Examiner apparently asserts that material 2 corresponds to Applicant's claimed "capillary coating." *Schuler*, however, does not disclose that material 2 is "cast" or that it has "good wetting characteristics." Accordingly, *Schuler* does not disclose or suggest "a capillary coating is selected such that, when it is cast in the material of the insulating part, it has good wetting characteristic" (emphasis added), as recited in claim 11.

Furthermore, Applicant notes that empty conduit 51 is designed as a bore. (*Id.* at FIGS. 2 and 3.) A molded body, such as molded body 5, having a bore for guiding a fiber cannot be considered to correspond to a "capillary, as recited in Applicant's claim 11. Accordingly, material 2 does not correspond to the claimed "capillary coating," for this reason as well.

Since *Maschek* and *Schuler* do not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of claim 11, these references, when taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the above-noted features of Applicant's claim 11. Accordingly, *Maschek* and *Schuler* references cannot support a rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 11 is, therefore, allowable over the applied references, and claims 14-17 are also allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 11.

Conclusion

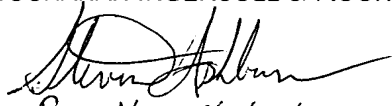
For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. In the event that there are any questions concerning this paper, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

It is believed that this Amendment is accompanied by the required fees. However, if additional fees are required for any reason, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-4800 the necessary amount.

Respectfully submitted,

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